SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

The South Viet Nam power issue and the ending of US aggression

ONE of the knots which are still tying up the Viet Nam tangle is the problem of the power in South Viet Nam. How to settle it in a reasonable and realistic way?

On the US side, after 4 years' talks, its position on the question has become apparent : continue in power the fire-eating Thieu regime and try to blot out the Provisional Revolutionary Government or in other words to "dilute" it in the present Saigon administration which is to be consolidated and regarded as South Viet Nam's legal and constitutional government. It has been made clear in Mr Nixon's May 5 eight points, August 23 and 29 speeches requiring the Provisional Revolutionary Government's participation in the Election Organizing Committee and in the Saigon administration during the interim while the Thieu-headed administration would go on exercising its fascist dictatorship. The US President's intention is obviously to liquidate the revolutionary power, and bolster up his neo-colonialist client rule with perfidious methods, more effective than the atrocious war activities he has been using in vain throughout his current term of office.

Such Machiavellism cannot take anyone in. It only exposes US design to carry on its "Vietnamized" war. It is utterly out of tune with the realities in South Viet Nam and out of touch with the sentiment of the population in the urban centres and occupied areas.

THERE is no denying that now in South Viet Nam there exist two different administrations and two separate armies. The South Vietnamese people and armed forces are in an upgrading posture while the US imperialists, the Saigon administration and army are going downhill. However, mindful of the South Vietnamese people's, American and world peoples' earnest desire for peace, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam favours the search for a settlement through serious negotiations. The US must bring its aggression to an end and leave the South Vietnamese to solve their internal affairs without foreign interference and on the basis of recognition of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination and of equality and mutual respect of both sides and of other political forces. They should not try to seize complete control over each other and must resolve their differences in the spirit of national concord.

Prompted by such sensible considerations, the RSVN PRG has proposed the formation of a tripartite government of national concord consisting of members of the PRG, those of the Saigon regime without Thieu and representatives of other South Vietnamese political forces including those who have had to take up residence abroad for political reasons. The PRG is ready to come to terms on guarantees for no party to sway the government of national concord. Each party will choose its own people. The tripartite government will be responsible for the organization of a general election to pass a constitution, to decide the political future of South Viet Nam and to appoint a regular government. Only the establishment of such a government of national concord will be consistent with the practical situation in South Viet Nam and can see to the realization of its genuine independence, neutrality and peace.

This proposition has been mentioned in the PRG 7-point plan, of which two fundamental problems have been elaborated on, and enunciated in the September 11 Statement of the PRG. It is one of the two inherent key points of a solution for ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam, a reasonable and sensible proposition based on actual realities in South Viet Nam.

HOWEVER, the Nixon administration carries on not only in keeping in office Nguyen Van Thieu as a tool for the implementation of "Vietnamization," for the imposition of a neo-colonialist rule on South Viet Nam but also in attempting by all means to eliminate the revolutionary power now in control of most of the land. His stubbornness only ends by entanging a Gordian knot. To shirk his responsibility he has levelled completely fabricated charge that the PRG wants to "impose a Communist regime" on South Viet Nam and asks for US "capitulation". It is only an attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of public opinion and American electorate.

A sound settlement of the conflict requires that on the one hand, the US must show genuine respect for the Vietnamese people's national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, terminate its aggression, completely cease the "Vietnamization" policy, withdraw all its troops and end all its military activities in both zones of Viet Nam and halt its support to the Thieu rule. On the other, it must face facts and agree to the setting up of a government of national concord as put forward in the PRG seven points.

Both aspects of the matter are inseparable. As long as the Nixon administration maintains the Thieu regime, sets its face against a tripartite government of national concord, the "Vietnamized" war will go on, US involvement drag out, the air and naval war rage on, the neo-colonialist rule pursue its terror and the risk of a more ruthless war of extermination increase. Genuine independence and peace is hardly conceivable while US troops are not completely pulled out, US aggressive scheme not abandoned and the instrument for its implementation not relinquished. Consequently, the problem of South Viet Nam political regime must be settled concurrently with the ending of the US aggression, total repatriation of US troops and winding up of US involvement. This is a matter of principle for the settlement of the South Viet Nam issue.

UNTIL now the Nixon administration's position at the Paris Conference like in the Republican program has been at utter variance with it. Meanwhile an aggression of utmost ferocity and of an unmistable extermination character has been unleashed against both zones of Viet Nam with a view to securing "a position of strength" on the battlefield, at negotiating table in the race to the White House. But such an objective is the wildest of all Nixonian dreams.

The US President's present posture at home, in the world and on the battlefield is at a low ebb. No bombs or bullets, no manoeuvre or caper can improve it unless he has "enough heart" to take the avenue of peace opened in front of him.

The South Vietnamese, locked in combat against imperialism for more than a quarter-century, have enough resolve and strength to fight on "until the Yanks quit and the quislings topple." Fresh distressing setbacks are in store for the Nixon administration if it persists in stepping up the war and hanging on to the Thieu junta.

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

Cartoon by the Saigonese paper **Saigon Moi** *(New Saigon)*

Here and there

Public-Relations Ploys

Deliberately the principal presidential advisor H. Kissinger and his staff have fallen back upon their customary last resort : public-relations ploys. Between two clandestine junkets, in July, just before the presidential electoral campaign the great strategist let it be known that an agreement on Viet Nam would have been reached by the end of September (*Nouvel Observateur*, July 27). Expectedly September begun with a flare-up of the aggression which gives no signs of an imminent end. But the trick in due time reduced to silence "adverse forces in the Republican Party" and Nixon was formally nominated for a second term of office.

Now it was Rogers's turn to hustle as many votes as possible for Dick. He clamoured that the Viet Nam talks would result in an accord surely before the next election (November) or immediately after the second inauguration of Mr Nixon (*AFP*, August 20). Then to tone down the State Secretary's statement a little bit, White House Under Secretary specified that Rogers had expressed a hope rather than a prediction based on some fact or some exchange of views, already done or possible (*AFP*, August 21).

Complications

But that was not all.

A few hours only after the involved rectification, State Department Mc Closkey "explained" that when Rogers said he was sure of a very prompt settlement, he thought in terms not of days or weeks but of months after the presidential election ! (*Reuter*, August 21).

Certainty or hope, promptitude or delay, it is truly hard to unravel those skeins of words of Mr Nixon's aides. After all it runs in the establishment. Didn't Dick himself resort to a similar ploy four years ago when he promised to end the war in "six months" ?

Phoebus's gold chariot has for more than a thousand and four hundred times made the trip from the oceans to the sky but the promised end to the war is still not in sight.

Understandably the US Chief Executive has become more cautious as far as pledges are concerned.

HUONG NAM

in the shadow of the american embassy in Saigon

(Continued)

VICE-PRESIDENT HUONG'G "INTEGRITY"

THE worries and miseries that beset the people of Saigon are multifarious. Many spring from the necessity to offer bribes, which involves many hardships and much humiliation.

To get a job as a longshoreman on the wharves at Chuong Duong or Thuong Cang, one must offer the superintendent a bribe equivalent to two months' wages. A highschool graduate who wants to be a clerk in a government department will have to cough up between 100,000 and 500,000 piastres, depending on what kind of job he is after. If he wishes to enter an American agency, he will have to offer money to a multitude of people : from the district police to the personnel chief of the agency concerned.

A father who wishes his son or daughter to enter a general-education school must offer presents to the head-master and to officials of the City educational service. A man who falls ill and needs some kind of treatment at the hospital will have to give the doctor in charge a shot of Vitamin *M* (*M* for money) before he could hope to get some care and medicine in return. The military hospitals are so crowded that wounded soldiers who are fortunate enough to be brought back to Saigon from, say, An Loc, lie on the cement floor in the verandas. Whether one such soldier wants a glass of water to quench his thirst after an operation, or a pill to soothe his pain, or a new bandage to replace the stinking old one, he will have to pay for it. If he can't afford it, he will just lie there and moan out vain pleas for help.

A bus ticket to Central Trung Bo for instance generally costs three times its normal price. A trip to France will cost a stowaway about 1,000 US dollars for a hiding-place on a ship. A regular exit visa costs 5,000 US dollars : everything can be bought provided you have the money.

Children of wealthy parents never bother to study hard for their exams. They spend their time at seaside resorts with their sweethearts, or go for pleasure rides on their Honda motorbikes. About a week before the exams, they can buy the subject of the tests for between 100,000 and 200,000 piastres. The only condition, besides the money, is that they should burn the incriminating papers after using them. That racket about test papers is in the hands of Education Minister Ngo Khac Tinh and his associates. For his talents he has been dubbed Minister of Un-Education.

Now about the draft. If you want to evade it, you must of course find a hiding-place, whether it be a cellar, a cupboard, or a dark corner in your own kitchen. But the point is that you must have a wad of banknotes in your hand, between 20,000 and 50,000 piastres just in case military police find you out. If you want to take a walk in the streets, you'd better have some money with you, for at each check-point you'll have to offer some dough to the officers on duty : in 1966, about 3,000 piastres, now more than 10,000 ! As you can see, prices have skyrocketed, ever since the proconsul Bunker revealed his intention to charge the colour of the corpses on the battlefields.

Suppose they get you somehow and you are impressed into the "Republican Army." If you don't want to be sent to far-away places up in Central Trung Bo or in Cambodia or Laos, if instead of going to "hot" battlefields you prefer safer jobs like standing guard before government offices, your parents will have to pay up to 300,000 piastres for the favour. Just ask the sentries on duty before the City Hall or the Saigon Special Command, you'll learn that most of them are sons of wealthy Chinese merchants in Cho Lon who in order to get them these soft jobs have paid astronomical sums to high-ranking officers : 500,000 piastres down, and then 20,000 piastres each month.

From 1971 onwards, because of galloping inflation, the bribe-takers, instead of fat envelopes stuffed with 500-piastre bills, would prefer presents in kind : a few ounces of heroin in plastic phials, or a Japanese television set, or a big refrigerator, or a Honda motorbike, or a dozen wrist-watches...

Even those who are not seeking any special favour must sometimes offer bribes, to district chiefs or to security officers, if they just wish to be left alone to mind their peaceful and law-abiding businesses. Otherwise they would be summoned from time to time to police headquarters to be questioned about distant relatives or childhood friends who, so they are told, have joined the Viet Cong ! After greasing the palms of various officials, they would be allowed to return home, only to be summoned back a few months later, for more questions and more... palm-greasing !

To be fair, we must say that the Saigon administration has promulgated quite few decrees against "corruption." Discussions have been held in Parliament and the lawcourts. Veritable "campaigns" have been launched with the participation of police, customs officers, military gendarmes, etc., and the whole court-and-prison machinery put in motion. Tens of thousand of arrests were made, in January 1972 alone. But, as a Saigon judge candidly said : "These campaigns only hit at the small fry. Nobody ever dares to touch the big fish !" The small traders complain : "Whom are the authorities striking at in their drive against corruption ? They only smash the rice bowl of the poor people by confiscating smuggled goods from petty peddlers." The only instance of punishment meted out to "big fish" was the execution of the rich Chinese merchant Ta Vinh. But this served only as a smokescreen to cover thousands of much bigger fish. Some people also hold that the shots that felled Ta Vinh in fact ushered in a new stage in the history of wealthy circles in Saigon : the decline of the "old millionaires" and the rise of new ones, who wear military uniform and hold absolute and exclusive control over the country's economic resources.

The Saigonese know that the anti-corruption drives are in fact golden opportunities for more corruption : police, customs officers, military gendarmes, judges, etc., seize upon these occasions to get fat bribes and kickbacks. Indeed, one can say that in Saigon, the law-makers, law-enforcers and law-breakers are just the same people, and that the watchword : "Fight corruption !" in fact means : "Long live corruption ?"

There are top-ranking people who have taken the defence of corruption. Among them is former president Tran Van Huong, who is now nearly 80 and has been connected with the regime for decades. In one parliamentary debate, he had this clincher : "If we should eliminate all corrupt elements, no one would be left to work for the States !"

In the electioneering campaign of October 1971, when Huong was Thieu's running mate for the vice-presidency, he was praised by his sycophants for his "integrity and honesty." According to them, he was "a righteous man who lives close to the people and stays away from all temptations." Then in early 1972, a pretty kettle of fish was uncovered. It was proved by political opponents that Huong was no more honest than any other big fish of the Saigon regime. Immediately after he agreed to be Thieu's running mate, the American Embassy presented him with a gift of 10,000 US dollars. Thieu himself offered him a luxurious villa on Phan Thanh Gian boulevard, and Dang Van Quang, Thieu's financial manager, brought him two million in cash for "the furniture."

Later, Huong also pocketed a check for 20,000 US dollars. But what made him most happy was the "special fund" of the vice-presidency, put at his disposal by the Saigon Finance Ministry after approval by Bunker personally and by USAID headquarters : from five million, the fund was increased to thirteen million piastres !

Huong was indeed wholly correct when he said that a truly effective anti-corruption drive would drive all Saigon officials from office, and that no one would be left to work for the "State," neither civil servants, police, gendarmes, parliamentarians, soldiers, senators, nor president, vice-president and premier ! Corruption is the miraculous force which keeps the State machinery in motion. It is the cement that holds together all components of the Saigon regime.

No one should worry about the lack of industrial development in the US-occupied part of South Viet Nam. Corruption and prostitution, thanks to the solicitude of the Americans and their flunkey Thieu, have reached a level of development equal to that of any industry in the world and could indeed supply the "free world" with top-notch experts.

(To be continued)

THANH NAM

PLAF SUCCESSES IN AUGUST

★ 30,000 US and Saigon casualties

★ 200 aircraft downed or destroyed

★ 400 vehicles and 100 guns seized or put out of commission

★ 20 military sector dumps burnt down

KEEPING up their offensives and uprisings, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam inflicted on August heavy losses on enemy manpower and war means.

Enemy sallies checked, adverse main forces assaulted

In Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, the adversary's attempts to fan out into the liberated zone — 2 divisions of the Saigon strategic reserve forces, 3 armoured regiments and tens of artillery battalions equipped with 250 105mm and 175mm guns — came to a flop. Significantly enough, that large force was operating with the support of fighters and B-52's in well over 100 sorties every day. In close coordination, regular and regional troops and guerillas launched ceaseless onslaughts in all directions — east and northeast, west and southwest of Quang Tri city, north and south of the My Chanh River, and west of Road 12 (Thua Thien). Like the Saigon paratroops in July, the marines who replaced them sustained bitter reverses. In all 9,000 men including 4,000 marines, a brigade and a dozen companies of paratroops and gunners were knocked out. 79 military vehicles which number many tanks and armoured personnel carriers, 100 artillery pieces, and 27 ammunition, fuel and food depots were set afire. In addition, liberation troops downed 58 aircraft.

Thus, after two months of counter-attacks starting from June 28, at the cost of 20,000 men, mostly paratroops and marines, put out of action, the enemy did not achieve any of his objectives, not even in propaganda.

In Central Trung Bo, liberation forces badly mauled Division 22 which, soon after its refitting, was fielded in the liberated area of Binh Dinh under US advisers' pressure. They encircled it and wiped out about 1,000 men at Tam Quan, De Duc and Bong Son. At the same time they mounted a large-scale action in Cam Doi, Que Son and Hieu Duc on the adverse defence line southwest of Da Nang. In the three days of August 17, 18 and 19, 3,000 enemy soldiers were wiped out and, as a result, 3 regiments and 4 battalions of ground and armoured troops written off or heavily decimated. Moreover, liberation regional forces knocked out or disbanded 2 battalions, one multi-company, 10 companies and 40 platoons of security and militia men. Simultaneously with the destruction of coercive organizations and armed forces, 20,000 people rose up and wrested power on an intensive area from Que Son valley to Thanh Binh district. Meanwhile, fierce fighting occurred on Road 19 (extended) which ended with the elimination of occupation forces on a 18-mile distance west of Thanh An district town. This enabled 7,000 minority people to stage uprisings and win control over the region.

In Nam Bo, the major part of Task Force 3 was assigned the clearing of Road 13, Binh Long province, but in vain. It was halted by liberation troops north of Chon Thanh and suffered at Tau O heavy casualties including 1,000 men of Divisions 18 and 25.

The PLAF expanded their activities to Lai Khe, Ben Cat and Bau Bang, Thu Dau Mot province, cut off the enemy's supply routes from the rear. They took a toll of over 600 troops and destroyed 20 vehicles (mostly tanks and armoured personnel carriers), 7 artillery pieces, about 100 outposts, underground shelters and barracks.

Under PLAF strong pressure, the enemy withdrew from Duc Vfnh and Tau O, abandoning another 30 miles of road from Chon Thanh to Ben Cat and from north of Chon Thanh to the southern reaches of Hon Quan.

In the Mekong delta, Divisions 7 and 9 received punishing blows: 6 of their battalions and 3 of their companies in My Tho and Ben Tre were seriously depleted in the first fortnight of August. Division 21, heavily trounced on the Road 13 front, was moved into this area to cope with liberation troops' onsets.

Liberated zone consolidated and enlarged, guerilla warfare expanded, "pacification" pregram frustrated

The violent attacks of the liberation regular forces made it possible for guerilla warfare to expand and assist the population in their uprisings.

In the plain of Central Trung Bo, the major assaults of the regular army at Cam Doi and Que Son effectively helped regional troops and people wipe out adverse security and militia forces, resettlement centres and "strategic hamlets" in areas adjoining Roads 15 and 16 and along Road 1 from Tam Ky to the vicinity of Da Nang. A large zone was liberated from Que Son valley to the western neighbourhood of Thang Binh district. The enemy had to send mobile units from Saigon and other forces from Thua Thien and Quang Da, spreading thin their manpower. They suffered 1,000 casualties at the hands of Thang Binh regionals and guerillas alone.

In the Mekong delta, together with actions against Saigon main forces, liberation troops and people got at security and commando battalions, invested and destroyed a number of outposts north and south of Road 4, and set up revolutionary power right in priority pacification centres. Right around Saigon the PLAF launched large-scale operations: important sections of Roads 1, 4, 13 and 15 linking this city to various provincial capitals of Nam Bo were interdicted. To such an extent that the US-Saigon command had to bomb populated areas near Saigon, many times with B.52's.

Major adverse rear bases hard hit

August witnessed relentless raids on the most important US-Saigon rear bases. Early in the month Thua Thien — Hue liberation troops stormed the CPs of Task Force 1 at Mang Ca and of Division 1 at Hamlet 5, the Tay Loc airfield, and the Dong Lam logistic sector. Over 100 enemy were killed and 10 or so big storages of artillery shells blown up.

At Hoa My crossroad, Da Nang, an engineer battalion was put out of action and 100 military vehicles wrecked on August 3.

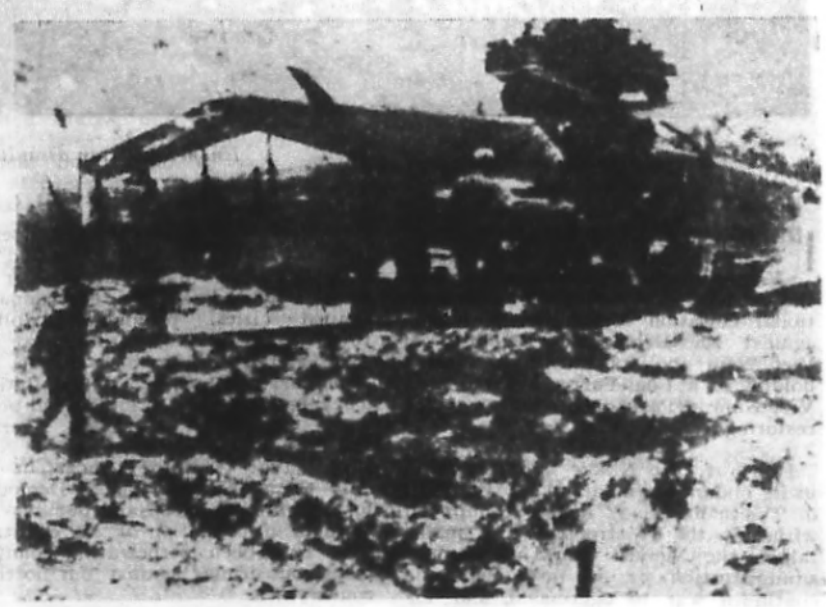
PLAF artillery pounded Da Nang air base on August 18, killed a number of pilots, set several munition dumps on fire and put 30 aircraft out of commission. A series of big ammunition stores at Pleiku, Cu Hanh, Cam Ranh and Thanh Tuy Ha were blotted out with over 100 adverse casualties.

Most dramatic were the PLAF onslaughts on Bien Hoa airbase and the Long Binh big depot. They resulted in the destruction of 74 aircraft of various types, 150,000 tons of bombs and shells and about one million litres of petrol as well as the destruction of 3 US-Saigon battalions. Among the casualties there was an American general, about 100 US pilots, officers and technicians.

All told, in August the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam:

— knocked out 30,000 adverse troops including 3 infantry brigades and regiments, 1 armoured regiment and 2 armoured battalions, 2 gunner battalions, 30 battalions and multi-companies of regular, security and militia forces; levelled a regimental base, 2 subsectors and hundreds of outposts;

— downed or destroyed on the ground 200 aircraft of different types, seized or put out of commission 400 military vehicles (including a sizable number of tanks and armoured personnel carriers) and 100 guns, sank 20 warships (including 5 from 8,000 to 10,000 tons) and set afire 20 munition and other war material dumps.



US war planes downed by PLAF at Binh Long

Much rice supplied to the front

Statement by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam

ON THE ENDING OF THE US WAR OF AGGRESSION AND RESTORATION OF PEACE IN VIET NAM

Enemy position assaulted

IN the wake of the resounding victories of spring 1968 recorded by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, the Johnson Administration's unconditional cessation of the bombardments against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and its acceptance of the holding of a Four-Party Conference on Viet Nam in Paris opened prospects for restoring peace in Viet Nam.

However, the Nixon Administration in its obduracy embarked on the path of "Vietnamization" in an attempt to withdraw the US troops while maintaining the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet administration as an instrument for continued war of aggression, and for carrying out US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. The more failures the "Vietnamization" policy sustains, the further the Nixon Administration engages, over the past few months, in criminal military adventures, and it is "re-Americanizing" the war with a massive participation of the US Air Force and Navy.

In South Viet Nam, with B.52 carpet-bombings and the use of toxic chemicals, with the extremely cruel and perfidious policy of "pacification," the US imperialists have piled up countless odious crimes over the past four years. At present, the war of genocide, biocide and ecocide, especially in the newly-liberated areas, has reached a level never seen in any other war. A typical example of this barbarity is the massacre now happening in Quang Tri provincial capital and the surrounding areas, where the US imperialists have rained, over the past two months and more, a tonnage of bombs and shells equivalent in destructive power to seven Hiroshima-type atomic bombs. The US aggressors are even crueller than the Hitlerite fascists; they are the biggest war criminals in our times.

In North Viet Nam, the US imperialists have hysterically escalated the war, launching night and day air and naval bombardments of extermination against cities, provincial capitals, townships, villages, striking at the dyke and hydraulic work system, and economic, cultural, social installations. They have arrogantly mined and blockaded the ports, estuaries, rivers of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, they have trampled underfoot not only the sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, but also the freedom of navigation of all countries. They have been perpetrating countless monstrous crimes against our northern countrymen.

President Nixon has used the withdrawal of US ground troops from South Viet Nam to claim that the war is coming to a close, and that the United States is bringing its involvement in Viet Nam and Indochina to an end. But this troop withdrawal cannot possibly conceal the fact that it is Nixon who has frenziedly intensified the war of extermination in South Viet Nam and the "special war" in Laos, started a new war of aggression in Cambodia, and thus expanded the war to the whole Indochinese peninsula; it is he who has started again a large-scale war of destruction with the greatest ferocity against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Far from reducing the US involvement Nixon has intensified and prolonged the war of aggression in Viet Nam and Indochina. It is he who has sabotaged the most impudently, the most seriously the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, and those of 1962 on Laos; it is he who has crudely violated the US commitment to completely stop the bombardments against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and broken the promise he made to the US voters of an early end to the Viet Nam war.

Under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people, seething with hatred for the US aggressors and their lackeys, are resolved to completely defeat the "Vietnamization" policy, and have repeatedly scored great victories. In particular, over the past five months and more, in coordination with our heroic northern countrymen, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people have duly punished the hysteric war escalation moves of the US imperialist aggressors, maintained their initiative on important theatres, and brought about rapid changes in the war situation in South Viet Nam. The US "Vietnamization" policy is irretrievably heading for its collapse. Never has our people's patriotic resistance against US aggression met with so beautiful prospects as now.

Thus over the past ten years and more, although they have mobilized more than half a million US troops, used over 10 million tons of bombs and shells, resorted to many cruel and perfidious tricks, and spent 200 billion dollars, the US imperialist aggressors have failed to turn the tide in South Viet Nam: the Saigon puppet administration is decaying and more and more isolated; if it can still stand, this is only thanks to the backing of US air and naval craft. This shows that the Saigon stooge administration is merely a creature and an instrument of the US neo-colonialist policy. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the liberation armed forces, offsprings of the broad patriotic movement of the people's masses in the South, possess accordingly an extremely strong vitality, and are continuously developing. The Provisional Revolutionary Government embodies the strength of an entire nation fighting for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, and also for the cause of national emancipation and world peace; it has been recognized by the socialist countries, 64 non-aligned countries, many peace- and justice-loving governments, the whole progressive mankind, as the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people.

YET it appears from President Nixon's 8-point proposal of January 25, 1972 statement that the United States obdurately demand from the South Vietnamese people a ransom for its aggression and acceptance of the Saigon stooge administration—which is tantamount to demanding the elimination of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the people's liberation armed forces in an attempt to impose US neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam. This is an arrogant demand that the South Vietnamese people categorically reject! The US imperialists' sticking to this demand means that they are still attempting to make Vietnamese fight against Vietnamese, and to prolong the war in South Viet Nam; it is certain that they will thus invite upon themselves further heavy defeats.

A correct political solution to the Viet Nam problem must affirm the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, and the South Vietnamese people's right to effective self-determination, and proceed from the present realities in South Viet Nam. This reality is the existence of the people's power and armed forces which are developing in a victorious fight against the US imperialist aggressors and their lackeys, whereas the Saigon stooge administration is a mere instrument of the US imperialist aggressors, and is in a losing position, a position in which it is going down the slope.

Having at heart peace, independence and national concord, and responding to the peace aspirations of the world's peoples, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has put forward the 7-point solution the two key issues of which have been elaborated. Its negotiating position is: the United States, being the aggressor, must end its aggression, scrupulously respect the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, and the South Vietnamese people's right to settle themselves their own affairs without any foreign interference, in keeping with the actual situation now obtaining in South Viet Nam. The Provisional Revolutionary Government has proposed the formation of a provisional 3-segment government of national concord which is to comprise people from the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, people from the Saigon administration, and representatives of other political forces in South Viet Nam, including those who, for political reasons, have to live abroad. The three segments in that government will be in equal strength and on an equal footing. The Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Saigon administration without Nguyen Van Thieu will appoint each its people to participate in the government of national concord; the appointment of people belonging to the third segment will be made through consultations.

The broad segments of public opinion support the 7 points of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the two key questions of which have been elaborated, they regard them as a fair solution guaranteeing lasting peace in Viet Nam, and making it possible for the United States to get out of the Viet Nam war in honour. President Nixon's claims that the US negotiating terms are "very generous," that the negotiating position of the Provisional Revolutionary Government is tantamount to "imposing a communist regime" on South Viet Nam, are nothing but shameless tricks to fool public opinion, and conceal the dark designs of the present US administration to maintain in office the stooge administration and to pursue the war in South Viet Nam.

Should the US Government really respect the South Vietnamese people's right of self-determination and seriously negotiate to peacefully settle the South Viet Nam problem, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is prepared to reach agreement with it to the effect that neither a communist regime nor a US-stooge regime shall be imposed on South Viet Nam; it is prepared to accept a provisional government of national concord that shall be dominated by neither side.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam solemnly declares as follows:

If a correct solution is to be found to the Viet Nam problem, and a lasting peace ensured in Viet Nam, the US Government must meet the two following requirements:

1. To respect the Vietnamese people's right to true independence and the South Vietnamese people's right to effective self-determination, stop the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, the bombing, mining and blockade of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, completely cease the "Vietnamization" policy, end all US military activities in South Viet Nam, rapidly and completely withdraw all US troops, advisors, military personnel, technical personnel, weapons and war materials and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam, liquidate the US military bases in South Viet Nam, end all US military involvement in Viet Nam, stop supporting the Nguyen Van Thieu stooge administration.

2. A solution to the internal problem of South Viet Nam must proceed from the actual situation that there exist in South Viet Nam two administrations, two armies, and other political forces. It is necessary to achieve national concord, the sides in South Viet Nam must unite on the basis of equality, mutual respect and mutual non-elimination. Democratic freedoms must be guaranteed to the people: To this end, it is necessary to form in South Viet Nam a provisional government of national concord with three equal segments to take charge of the affairs in the period of transition and to organize truly free and democratic general elections.

So long as the US imperialist aggressors continue the war and maintain the Saigon stooge administration, the South Vietnamese people along with their beloved northern countrymen, acting upon the Testament of the venerated President Ho Chi Minh, will resolutely fight on, until the Yankees quit and the puppets topple. The Vietnamese people are resolved to fight on, shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal peoples of Cambodia and Laos, and completely defeat the US imperialist aggressors, and cause the "Nixon doctrine" to go bankrupt in Indochina. The bombs and shells, the insolent threats, the perfidious political and diplomatic manoeuvres of the US imperialists cannot possibly conquer the Vietnamese people; instead, they will only serve to deepen their hatred and increase their resolve to fight and to win.

Bringing into play the national traditions of heroism, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam are determined to march forward in the flush of victory, and emulate one another in wiping out the enemy and achieving exploits, so as to defeat the "Vietnamization" policy, to smash all hysterical military adventures of the US imperialists and their lackeys, score still greater successes, and proceed to win total victory. With indefectible loyalty the South is determined to keep its vow that for each US encroachment on the North, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people will punish them with five, ten times stronger blows.

OVER the past ten years and more, under the pretence of defending "the interest of the United States," "the people's right to self-determination," "world peace," the US administrations have deliberately concealed the root cause and true nature of the Viet Nam war. But through the Pentagon's "Secret Papers" and the so-called "Tonkin Gulf incident", it has been clear that these are but deceptive contentions. The Vietnamese people believe that the American people will not allow the Nixon administration to carry on the "Vietnamization" policy under cover of hypocritical claims about bringing home all US "prisoners," defending the honour of the United States, etc. It is not to protect the lives of the captured US servicemen, but rather to save the corrupt stooge clique in South Viet Nam that the United States has lost tens of thousands more killed and hundreds of thousands more disabled in Viet Nam over the past four years or so. If the Vietnamese people have fought a protracted fight, and accepted countless sacrifices and destructions, this is to gain independence, freedom, peace, and not to humiliate anybody. If the present US administration ends the war of aggression, withdraws all US troops, ceases all military involvement in Viet Nam, stops supporting the Saigon stooge administration, and lets the South Vietnamese people form a three-segment government of national concord, this will bring about an early release of all captured US servicemen and an early restoration of peace in Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people believe that for the sake of national independence, peace and justice, the world's peoples will not allow the US imperialists to continue their war of aggression, carry out the "Nixon doctrine" in Viet Nam, and then extend it to the whole world. The peoples' movement in support of the Vietnamese people's just struggle is gaining in strength and scope in various countries. This shows that progressive mankind is resolutely opposing the US imperialists' attempts to use their great armed forces and modern weapons to do away with the right of a nation to live in independence, freedom and peace.

The National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam express their sincere and deep gratitude to the governments and peoples of peace- and justice-loving countries, the American people, the international democratic organizations, the forces of peace and progress in the world, and call brothers and friends to urge the Nixon administration to end its war of aggression in Viet Nam, as well as in Laos and Cambodia, withdraw all US troops from South Viet Nam, cease all US air and naval attacks in the two zones of Viet Nam, and the mining and blockade of North Viet Nam, put an end to all US military involvement in Viet Nam, stop supporting the Saigon stooge administration, and let the South Vietnamese people form a 3-segment government of national concord.

The South Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, is bound to end in glorious victory.

South Viet Nam, September 11, 1972.

Liberation fighters overrun an enemy position after an artillery barrage

Enemy tanks destroyed by PLAF on Binh Chanh front

Phnom Penh

A new American-type election farce

COMING in the wake of the "Presidential election" comedy in June 1972, another US-directed election farce to the National Assembly was staged on September 3 in the "Khmer Republic."

Western reports let it be known that three main groups of pro-US agents were running: the Social-Republican Party of Colonel Lon Nol, younger brother of "President" Lon Nol; the Republican Party of Sirik Matak, Lon Nol's special adviser; and the Democratic Party of In Tam. As "reserve" there was the "People's Party" (not the former Procheachon group) headed by Penn Youth, one of Lon Nol's hirelings.

The curtain rose as the US and Lon Nol looked on with anxiety. The electoral law enacted by the Phnom Penh administration was aimed at ousting opposition parties from the political arena and concentrating all powers in the hands of the Social Republican Party; it was denounced by Sirik Matak and In Tam as "anti-constitutional" and "anti-democratic." In Tam further revealed that the Lon Nol gang had requested the election supervisors to put their signatures under reports left in blank, which the Government would be free to fill later. Both Republican and Democratic Parties took the decision to boycott the elections. *AFP* reported on September 3 that there were in all 136 candidates to contend for the 126 seats in the National Assembly, and 126 of them were members of the Social Republican Party. *UPI* on the same day reported that in most constituencies, there was only one candidate run by Lon Nol's Social Republican Party. The opposition group taking part in the elections was the "People's Party" consisting of active supporters of Lon Nol, *UPI* stressed; observers said that the People's Party was organized with the sole view of preventing an awkward situation created by an eventual one-party affair.

The above-mentioned Western agencies described the elections as purely "symbolic" and remarked that everybody seemed "indifferent" towards them, since his concern was instead directed to the price of rice and fish -- two basic foodstuffs whose cost had been skyrocketing. They also noticed that the turn-out was small in the capital in spite of appeal by the radio, a propaganda campaign in the streets and leaflets scattered by airplanes. Prior to this, *Reuter* reported on September 1 that the elections were shadowed by the threat of a rice shortage and a series of military defeats, and that political activities were apparently at a standstill.

Yet, according to a communiqué of the Information Ministry of the Phnom Penh administration, on September 3 up to 96 percent of the voters in the capital had gone to the polls, and in the provinces over 80 percent. Even refugees in the northern provinces controlled by the Cambodian Royal Government of National Union showed special enthusiasm and took part in the voting!

One cannot help recalling the Saigon one-man show on October 3 last year. It is obvious that although different actors appeared on two different stages, the plays were quite similar, with the same tricks, the same shamelessly inflated statistics since the stage-manager was the same man. And the same conclusion was reached by the spectators: again an American-type "democratic" election farce!

The September 1 statement by the Cambodian Royal Government of National Union pointed out in unequivocal terms: 'Like previous 'referendums' and 'presidential elections', the so-called general elections of September 3, 1972 staged on order of US imperialism had a primary aim of putting a 'legal' face on the fascist regime of the Phnom Penh gang of traitors with a view to hoodwinking public opinion, creating a new element to help Nixon win a second term in the USA in November next and put into effet his 'negotiations' and 'cease-fire in place' schemes."

But all US-Lon Nol efforts will prove futile. Public opinion will not be fooled by their election farce, either in Cambodia or the world: a proof of this was provided by the admission by the Georgetown Conference of the Royal Government of National Union as a full-fledged member of the Bloc of Non-Aligned Nations and its rejection of the Phnom Penh delegation coupled with a strong declaration of support to the legitimate anti-US patriotic resistance of the Cambodian people. Neither can these US-Lon Nol antics iron out the inner dissensions among pro-US groups in Phnom Penh. Instead they will exacerbate them and bare the ugly neo-colonialist features of US imperialism and the traitorous nature of the Lon Nol, Sirik Matak, Son Ngoc Thanh clique. The entire people of Cambodia will harbour an even more implacable hatred for US imperialism and its valets who are concerned only with competing with each other for US manna and caring little for the miserable life of the people. The Cambodian people are turning more and more to the National United Front and the Royal Government of National Union led by Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and are resolved to step up their fight until final victory. No matter what device may be used by the US imperialists and their flunkeys, they will not be able to conceal their hideous colours and escape the punishment reserved by history for aggressors and traitors.

DAI LIEN

Laos

PLA recent victories in Plain of Jars

AFTER sending its mercenary troops from Laos to Thailand to recoup following their heavy defeats in the last dry season, the US has brought them back again and thrown them into the Plain of Jars.

The enemy, from August 25 to September 5, were dealt initial but very heavy blows by the LPA, who wiped out or captured close to 1,400 enemy, knocked down 6 aircraft, and destroyed or seized hundreds of firearms.

This operation, which involves from six to eight thousand troops of the Vang Pao "special force" and the Thai mercenary army and a good number of US warplanes, is aimed at taking the patriots' pressure off Sam Thong and Long Cheng and serving the dark political and psy-war schemes of the US in Laos.

The US-puppets have tried to win a surprise victory by mounting simultaneous counter-attacks from all directions. But they themselves have been caught flat-footed by the preparedness of the patriotic armed forces. The two strongest drives from the north and the northeast undertaken by four Mobile groups (MG's) of the Vang Pao bandits have been hurled back, with the 21st and 26th MG's suffering heavy casualties before fording the Nam Ngum river in their hurried flight.

Generally speaking, all the three enemy prongs have either been hurled back or turned tail. A good number of officers and men have been disbanded, or surrendered to the patriots. "The heavy losses of the US-puppets right at the start of their major nibbling operation against the Plain of Jars are another proof of the bankruptcy of the intensified US "special war" in Laos, and the Vang Pao bandits and Thai mercenaries, although having been given a shot in the arm by the US, have failed in their role as the "backbone" of the "Laotianization" policy.

Both the fire power and the "heliborne" tactics of the US are ineffective in face of the valiant fighting spirit of the Lao patriotic armed forces.

Cambodia

People's national liberation forces' sustained activity

AKI reported on August 25, 1972 that, in the current rainy season, the Khmer People's National Liberation Armed Forces (KNPLAF) and people have been incessantly active on all fronts.

In Northern Cambodia, they continually attacked the enemy on Highway 7, chopping it up and blocking road traffic to Kompong Cham town and isolating totally the town. Kompong Thom town was also besieged and entirely isolated. Phnom Penh troops engaged in Operation "Angkor Chey" were driven out of Mount Ba Kheng and had to withdraw in confusion to Siem Reap town which was also encircled on all sides. The section of Highway No. 6 linking Siem Reap and Battambang was also sealed off.

In Eastern Cambodia, powerful onsets mounted by KNPLAF on Highway No. 1 and especially on Kompong Trabek inflicted heavy losses on the best units of the Phnom Penh army under Colonel Ith Suong's command and on Nguyen Van Thieu's mercenaries supported by US aircraft. Ith Suong had previously been battered in Operation "Chenla II". The new blow he received led observers to rename Operation Sorya (*Sun*) Operation "Sorya Asdang Kot" (*Sunset*). Enemy garrisons in Svay Rieng and Prey Veng towns were assailed and surrounded. Highways No. 1 and No. 15 were interdicted and KNPLAF which controlled several sections of them, have been tightening their noose around Neak Luong Base.

In South-Western Cambodia, KNPLAF razed to the ground enemy positions at Pongror, Krang Chek, Peaing Lovea, Angtassom, etc. and have been investing several provincial capitals still under enemy occupation. All communication lines leading to Kampot, Takeo, Kompong Speu, Kompong Chhnang have been cut off, and Sihanoukville under constant pressure. Kok Kong province is now entirely isolated. Highways Nos 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been sealed off by KNPLAF which are controlling many sections of them. Mercenary troops, entrenched in their shrinking positions, have been living in a permanent alarm.

In North-Western Cambodia, KNPLAF units are emulating each other in achieving feats-of-arms. They are decimating and disbanding Lon Nol troops in Battambang and Pursat and are active on Highways Nos 5 and 10, putting every month hundreds of enemy troops out of action. Phnom Penh troops garrisoned at Leach are wholly isolated while those in Battambang and Pursat towns and in Maung Russei, Pailin, Minnol Borei urban centres pinned in down their posts and subjected to continual pressure from KNPLAF.

The KNPLAF have been attacking day and night their opponents in and around Phnom Penh, giving them to respite. The enemy defence perimeter around the capital city has been broken through, and even the residence of Lon Nol, the traitor, has been exposed to KNPLAF fire. In the wake of those repeated attacks panic-stricken Phnom Penh generals Hou Hang Sin, Nou Thau and Deng Layom have been dismissed.

Enemy dumps in Phnom Penh set afire by KNPLAF

Viet Nam issue in US electoral campaign

FOR an incumbent US president standing for re-election, the most difficult thing is how to vindicate what he has or has not done during his tenure. In point of fact, Nixon is now most worried about Viet Nam in the present electoral campaign.

There is no other issue in US policy that has prompted Nixon to make so many promises to his voters as Viet Nam, nor any other problem on which Nixon has so blatantly broken his word. Four years ago, to secure his admission to the White House, Nixon unhesitatingly pledged to settle the Viet Nam problem before any other in US foreign policy (1), and, as known to everybody, he declared he already had a "secret plan" to end the war, once he was returned president. In an interview in Boston on August 21, 1968, he lashed out at the Johnson administration for having driven the United States into a long drawn-out and ruthless war (2). Ironically in 1972, the last year of Nixon's term of office, this criticism can be returned to him.

It is precisely the Nixon administration which is now driving the United States into a long drawn-out and ruthless war.

"Johnson's war" has indeed become "Nixon's war." It has been prolonged for another four years and extended to the whole Indochinese peninsula. Millions of Americans have now realized that they had been grossly deceived: Nixon has only sought to "Vietnamize" the war, not to end it.

They have also grown aware that when Nixon declared he would end US "involvement" in the war, he meant only to withdraw those war-weary — both physically and morally — GIs whose prolonged presence on the battlefield would become a political and economic liability to him. This "ending of involvement" has no meaning whatsoever for tens of thousands of American militarymen still engaged in the Viet Nam war for an indefinite period just to give a proof of US "determination" to "stay" in South Viet Nam. This is all the more ironical for the air and naval forces which have even reinforced since April last. More than half the total of US strategic air force, over one thousand tactical aircraft, hundreds of war vessels including half the total of US aircraft-carriers, have been deployed in Viet Nam.

In the history of wars, no imperialist country has ever mustered such a huge force on such a narrow battlefield.

In 1968, the last year of his presidency, Johnson had to halt the bombing against North Viet Nam and troop build-up in the South. In 1972, also the last year of his administration, Nixon has gone back on the US understanding in October 1968 and rekindled a large-scale air and naval war against the DRVN, and when he declared on August 29 that by the end of his tenure, there would be only 20,000 GIs in South Viet Nam, while in fact nearly 200,000 American troops are taking part in the present genocidal war against Viet Nam.

From these facts and figures can be seen Nixon's desire to seek a military solution to the war, with a view to forcing on the South Vietnamese people the illegal Saigon regime and Yankee neo-colonialism.

What Nixon has done in the last four years in Viet Nam and Indochina is enough proof of his capability of making white black and of taking at any moment pledges not to honour them afterwards.

Now it's time for Nixon to settle his account.

Perhaps all through his tribulation-ridden political career he has never staked so much as on Viet Nam. He thought that by gradually withdrawing US troops, reducing casualties and war expenditures, and sending less and less US draftees to Viet Nam in the last years, the bulk of the American people would accept what he described as an "honorable end to the war." He thought that the Americans would overlook his genocidal crimes in Viet Nam, provided these would not cost them too high a price in manpower and wealth. He believed that in this year of grace of 1972, his "Vietnamization" would be crowned with success, which means the USA would attain its neo-colonialist objectives in Viet Nam without having to deploy half-a-million GIs in the South, wage an airwar against the North and spend 30 billion dollars a year. If such a dream came true, the Viet Nam problem would be dropped from the list of issues of this autumn election.

But what has actually happened is just the opposite.

The Viet Nam problem still ranks first among the most burning issues in this political year in the United States. Nixon's "ending of the war" or "ending of US involvement in the war" has not at all defused the US people's antiwar movement. More and more Americans have come to realize that they were cheated by Nixon in 1968. They have now seen that "Vietnamization" is just an immoral and brutal policy which is moreover unable to help the United States out of this unjust and costly war. Confronted with the Vietnamese people's resolute, persevering and growing resistance, "Vietnamization" has not brought Nixon what had not been achieved by Johnson with half-a-million US troops to impose a client administration on the South Vietnamese. If such an objective was to be pursued, US "involvement" in South Viet Nam would have to be indefinitely prolonged. This has been borne out by the new escalation in US air and naval attacks since April last. However "successful" "Vietnamization" may be claimed to be, the war of aggression remains an American war waged under US plans, with US dollars and even US blood. It is by no means easy to force the Vietnamese to fight in place of Americans against Vietnamese. In his electioneering campaign four years ago, Nixon once declared that it should not be forgotten that after the start of peace talks in Korea, another 18,000 GIs died — and this should not happen again in Viet Nam, he stressed (3). But the first man to "forget" this has been none other than Nixon himself, and those who have to pay for Nixon's oblivion are the American people. It has been recalled by US Republican Representative Donald Riegle that Nixon's Viet Nam policy in the last three years had cost the US 129,537 more casualties, including more than 20,000 dead, that is more than in the Korean war, and that war expenditures had risen to 60 billion dollars. Although those figures are only official US statistics, they have led Riegle to the conclusion that for a President who had promised to end the war, the record was unbelievable! (4).

The 60 billion dollars estimates, a rather conservative assessment of actual US spending, represents nevertheless a crushing burden on an America which has hardly recovered from her economic crisis, which is still in the throes of a serious budged deficit, a prolonged inflation and depreciation of her currency.

This loss in manpower and materials, serious as it is, is not all the price Nixon has exacted from the American people for the breach of his promise to end the war. How can he explain away his maintaining and aggravation of dissensions which are tearing off the US social fabric over the issue of the war? How can he remove the stain on US honour for the genocidal crimes he has committed in Viet Nam? How can he account for US isolation in the world over the Viet Nam problem?

The question is even more agonizing to millions of Americans. What is all this huge and increasing material and moral loss for? Is it only for the sake of Nguyen Van Thieu, the dictator? Or to defend the US "right" to determine the political future of another people? Can these and other reasons, taken together, justify the present and future cost to the American people? And even if Nixon's crafty manoeuvres were successful enough to deceive the American voters into accepting such a price, he would still have to face another difficulty — an insurmountable one: defeat in Viet Nam.

Four years ago Johnson was forced to withdraw not only because he had continued and extended on a large scale an unjust, illegal and immoral war, but also and mainly because that war was being lost. Nixon's opponent in the coming election — McGovern — and his Democratic Party — are standing for immediate and total cessation of US bombing in Indochina, withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam and cessation of US support for the Nguyen Van Thieu regime — all this without any prerequisite. This is what the American people have been claiming. It is a serious challenge to Nixon's Viet Nam policy, a policy which is regarded as unpopular even by Republican senators known as the most loyal to their Party. (5)

The challenge is all the more dangerous to Nixon as it is issued at a time when he is more than ever mired down in Viet Nam.

VAN DUC

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(1) *US News and World Report*, October 7, 1968.

(2) *US News and World Report*, Sept. 15, 1968.

(3) *Statement in Chicago*, February 18, 1968 — *US News and World Report*, July 15, 1968.

(4) *UPI*, August 8, 1972.

(5) *Washington Star*, August 8, 1972.

Nixon before God on Judgement Day

Chile

A Grim Confrontation

THE Chilean revolution in its steady advance is facing stiff resistance from reaction: a decisive battle between revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries is going on every hour and every minute on all fronts in a land gripped by a real radical change affecting and drawing in millions of people.

In a relatively short period—less than two years after the advent to power of the government led by the Popular United Alliance, the valiant Chilean people have gained tremendous successes hitherto unknown in their history. Within the framework of the present Constitution, the Government has placed the whole system of banking and finances, and hundreds of industrial enterprises and mines under State management. The regime of *latifundia* has gradually been abolished. About 3,500 *ha* of land owned by landlords have been distributed to peasants. Exploitation of the peasantry, after four centuries, is drawing to an end. The people's living standard has been improved step by step. According to recent statistics, the average real wages have gone up by 20 per cent and the number of unemployed has quickly decreased.

A longer list of significant achievements by the Chilean people in the course of their endeavours to realize the program of the Popular United Alliance can be made but what precedes is enough to show how deep and how popular the revolutionary changes have been.

This has caused alarm to the reactionary forces which, in their decline, have reacted most rabidly. They are represented by reactionary capitalists and landlords grouped in the right wing of the Christian Democratic Party. Behind them are the US imperialists and pro-US governments in the Western Hemisphere whose hostile attitude vis-à-vis the Chilean revolution is an open secret. American columnist Jack Anderson has revealed in the *Washington Post* a whole plan under which Nixon ordered the US ambassador in Chile to prevent by all means Salvador Allende's return as President. The *New York Times* has exposed the attempt by ITT—a big US monopoly firm—and the CIA to overthrow Chile's constitutional and legal government. Foreign imperialists have instigated and helped local reactionaries, including overt fascist organizations, to stage an all-out offensive against the Popular United Alliance Government. Taking advantage of certain economic difficulties left over by the former regime or created by themselves, the reactionary forces have been trying to win over part of the popular masses. They have systematically sabotaged production, law and order, organized assassinations and fomented troubles. Preparations have even been made by them to kindle a civil war. *El Siglo* (Century), a Chilean magazine, uncovered in its August 28 issue a plan code-named the "September Plan" for the overthrow of the Allende Government. It was drawn up by the CIA and such front-rank US monopoly firms as ITT and the Copper Company, and its implementation put under their command, with as executors, the Chilean magazine revealed, reactionary elements in the fascist organization called "Fatherland and Freedom," the Radical Democratic Party and the right wing of the Christian Democratic Party. On August 27, 1972 the Political Bureau of the Communist Party, a component of the Popular United Alliance, earnestly called on the people to remain vigilant. "The reactionaries are acting under a premeditated plan aimed at impeding the process of reform and liberation of the people being put into effect by the Popular United Alliance Government," the appeal disclosed.

The Chilean people have not been caught unawares. The Popular United Alliance is firmly resolved to advance on the path charted in its Program; the Chilean people and Government have taken steps to face any challenge of the reactionary forces. Said President Salvador Allende on May 21, 1972: "At present, every hour, every minute a struggle is taking place, whose outcome will affect peace and the fate of our Fatherland. I feel absolute confidence in our people's capability to build a new society. No matter what difficulties and obstacles, the people and government, united as one, will carry the day."

Meetings and demonstrations have been held by millions of Chileans throughout the country to show their firm determination to foil the reactionaries' dark schemes. Millions of Chileans are carrying on their daily work in mines, factories, schools, government services with calmness and resolution. The Chilean progressive forces are forming a bloc behind the Popular United Alliance Government under this watchword, "We will not back down. We will not compromise, we will fight if necessary in town and countryside, as President Allende has said."

Standing in the anti-US frontline in South Viet Nam, we are certain of the ultimate success of the brotherly Chilean people. In our long drawn-out and gruelling fight against the US imperialists and their flunkeys, we have come to realize fully that in our present era, no reactionary force, be it US imperialism, can check the advance of a people firmly resolved to take their destiny in their own hands. In Chile, Viet Nam or other countries where the people have risen up in the common drive for independence and freedom, the golden days of reaction are definitively gone.

We will stand by the Chilean people. From the bottom of our hearts, we send them the assurances of our solidarity and best wishes for success.

LE MINH

Chile and Republic of South Viet Nam establish diplomatic relations

A solemn ceremony to sign a communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the Republic of Chile and the Republic of South Viet Nam was held in Santiago on September 8.

Present at the ceremony among others were Foreign Minister Clodomiro Almeyda representing the Chilean Government, and Hoang Bich Son, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

After the signing Clodomiro Almeyda said: This agreement manifests the Chilean people's desire to maintain the closest relations with the South Vietnamese people who are struggling for independence, sovereignty and national reunification with the support from all progressive forces in the world. We take this decision, conscious that it will contribute to stimulating the Vietnamese people's struggle so as to develop the values which the Chilean government and people are sharing with the Vietnamese people.

American women parade in Berkeley (California) in protest against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam

in brief * in brief

USA

On September 6, 200 New Yorkers held a meeting to protest US aggression in Viet Nam. Film actress Jane Fonda showed the participants some black-and-white films on the serious aftermaths of the US escalated bombing of schools, churches and population centres in North Viet Nam.

On September 7, a march of protest was held in New York. The marchers started from Danbury, Connecticut, six days earlier. They planned to walk as far as Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to express their solidarity with Roman Catholic priest Philip Berrigan who had recently been given 8 years' imprisonment for his anti-war activity.

Many union organizations have criticized the domestic and foreign policies of the Nixon administration. President of the Automobile Workers Union Leonard Woodcock blamed Nixon for his failure to cure social ills in the country like crime, pollution, and the health question as well as the costly war in Viet Nam. The report made to the Congress of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America pointed out that there could be no solution to the painful social questions in the United States so long as manpower and resources continued to be squandered on the prosecution of the war in South-East Asia.

Answering questions of the CBS, Justice William O. Douglas of the US Supreme Court said: "I am afraid as a result of the Viet Nam war that in the eyes of many people in the underdeveloped nations, we are now the new Genghis Khan, a great destroyer, which is very, very unfortunate."

Japan

The drive against the shipment of US tanks from Japan to Viet Nam which has been going on for the past two months or more, has flared up recently. From the night of September 2 to September 4, large crowds of Japanese held series of demonstrations in front of the Sagamihaca, a major war equipment repair centre of the US, about 30 miles south of Tokyo, to protest the US military authorities' preparations to send repaired US tanks back to Viet Nam. The demonstrators surrounded the base and fought back police called in to disperse them. They denounced that the repair of damaged US tanks brought from the Viet Nam battlefield is a new indication that Japan is being involved in the US aggression in Viet Nam through the so-called "Japan-US Security Treaty."

SOUTH VIET NAM The Struggle CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION